(b) if not, the actual figures thereof and the quantum of capital invested therein; and

(c) the percentage of the sick units out of the SSI unit registered during 2002-03?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) As per the latest data available from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which compiles data on sick Small Scale Industrial (SSI) units financed by the scheduled commercial banks, there were 1,67,980 sick SSI units in the country with an outstanding amount Rs. 5706.35 crore as at the end of March, 2003.

(c) The sick SSI units constituted around 5% of the total number of SSI units registered with at the State/UT Directorate of Industries at the end of the year 2002-03.

Building of satellite vehicle

1090. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO has been approached by other countries in building satellite vehicles; if so, the details of those countries and the kind of help asked for, by them; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that ISRO proposes to double its transponder capacity in a phased manner to meet the growing demand; if so, the details of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. ISRO proposes to increase the transponder capacity substantially in the INSAT system in a phased manner to meet the growing demand. The number of transponders in the INSAT system at present is 133. It is planned to increase the transponder capacity by launching 4th generation INSAT satellites.